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# Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve News Release

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## Overview: National Park Service Commemorates Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial

CHALMETTE, LA: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve and the National Park Service (NPS) salute the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans Wednesday, January 7, through Saturday, January 10. Over 500 living history reenactors, demonstrators of period crafts, musicians, dancers, speakers, and authors will participate in NPS events. All NPS events are free and open to the public; complete event information is at [www.nps.gov/jela](http://www.nps.gov/jela).

### Wednesday, January 7, at Jackson Square, New Orleans

- **Call to Arms 11:00 a.m.** Join living history reenactors to re-create the call to arms of December 18, 1814, when Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson and his aide-de-camp Edward Livingston rallied New Orleans against the invading British.

**More information about Thursday-Saturday events including transportation options, a map to public parking, and a complete hour-by-hour event schedule is available at [www.nps.gov/jela](http://www.nps.gov/jela).**

### Important information for all Thursday, Friday, and Saturday events at Chalmette Battlefield:

- **Public parking:** Only buses on registered field trips and official battlefield shuttles will be allowed on the battlefield grounds. ALL public parking, including parking for vehicles with handicapped tags, is at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette. Free shuttles, including wheelchair-accessible shuttles, will run continuously between public parking and the battlefield. Restrooms and tourism information will be available at the government complex.
- **Food and drink:** Visitors are welcome to bring picnic lunches. Food trucks will be at the battlefield on Thursday and Saturday. Bottled water will be on sale every day.

**Thursday, January 8, at Chalmette Battlefield, Chalmette – see separate Commemoration Day press release.**

### Friday, January 9, at Chalmette Battlefield

- **9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** Nearly 2500 students on school field trips are registered to experience the world of 1815 through “Battle of New Orleans University” activities, programs, and demonstrations. More than 200 living history experts dressed as troops and civilians from 1815 and over 100 musicians, dancers, and demonstrators of period crafts will show off their skills, share their stories, fire cannons and muskets, and bring the War of 1812 era to life. Note that the public is also welcome to attend Friday’s activities.

### Saturday, January 10, at Chalmette Battlefield

- **10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** “Battle of New Orleans University” (see Friday description) returns with more activities, programs, and demonstrations for visitors of all ages. Visitors can take part in hands-on workshops, visit military encampments, watch cannon and musket firings, enjoy period music and dance, attend demonstrations of period crafts and skills, hear speakers, and meet authors throughout the day. A special Kids Camp will provide activities just for kids.
- **3:30-4:30 p.m.** Closing ceremony will re-create the January 23, 1815, victory celebration that honored Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson and the American forces. A fife and drum procession will lead the crowd to the event finale.
- **4:30-5:00 p.m.** The event finale will present a grand farewell to the bicentennial celebration of unity with closing remarks, cannon firings, and music.

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*About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 400+ national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

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